

EXHIBIT 34
DATE 3/17/11
HB HJ2

Montana

Economic Development

FAST FACTS



<http://www.business.mt.gov/>

INCLUDED:

Bison NG Pipeline Brings Needed Tax Revenue
Copper Prices Flirting with Historic Highs
Signal Peak Coal Mine Impacts are Significant
Boeing Acquisition of Summit Aeronautics Builds for the Future
Stillwater Mine Keeps Growing
Baker ON Ramp Helps Montana Oil Development
\$200 Million Power Plant Supports Renewable Energy Development
MATL Brings Heavy Investment to Montana
Copper Prices support Montana Resources Strength
Bresnan Communications Increases Jobs in Billings
Growth in BNSF Job Training Efforts Marks Growth in Rail Activity in Montana
Stinger Welding Plant in Libby near Completion - Jobs Being Added
REC Silicon Plant Increases Investment; Provides Jobs
TicketPrinting Wins "Entrepreneur of Year" Award While Providing Good Jobs in Rural Montana
Montana's Exports Grow at 4th Fastest Rate in the Nation in 2010
Pyramid Mountain Lumber Increases Salaries and Earns Top Honors
Revett Minerals' Troy Mine Produces 1 Million Oz. Silver & 9 Million lbs. Copper
RightNow Technologies Tops 1000 Workers
DEQ Approves Otter Creek Prospecting Significant Jobs & Revenue to Emerge
Bioscience is High-Paying Jobs Creator
ACS Expands Helena Operations – Adds Jobs
Income Tax Wage Withholding at Record Rate
McKinstry Opens in 2009, Expands in 2010
Federal Report Supports 36 inch Keystone XL Pipeline; Helping \$1.1 Billion Montana Investment
Specified Fittings Expands from Bellingham, WA to Stevensville
SRS Crisafulli (SRSC) Expansion Adds Jobs in Glendive
New Seacast Titanium Foundry in Butte Brings Technology and Jobs
Cleanwaste Expands to 56 Employees
Big Sky Trust Fund Helps Create 1477 Jobs
MT 2010 Wheat Crop to Bring in Record \$\$ Stillwater Mining Huge Revenue Jump 2010
Helena 6th Strongest Micropolitan Economy Report Shows Bozeman 7th Strongest in US
MCDC Gets \$56 Million for Montana Projects Will Create Hundreds of Construction Jobs
Sun Mountain Lumber rehires 24 workers
Montana Refining adds Value to Oil
American Pulses' Splitting Line Starts Up

Kamut International named Montana's 2010 *Exporter of the Year*

R&R Conner is Montana Firm Named Blue Ribbon Small Business by US Chamber

Continental Resources Marks 15% Increase in Montana Bakken Oil

GearPods, Polson Small Manufacturer, Profiled in International *Outside Magazine*

Montana Rifleman's 48 Workers Approach 100,000 Annual Gun Barrel Production

***WhoCanHelp.com*, Missoula Innovative Website Business, Goes National – Helps Consumers**

Montana Rail Link Traffic Rebounds from Recession

Cloud Computing Firm Opens Missoula Solutions Center (MSC)

Rivertop Renewables, Missoula, Uses \$200 K Grant to Expand

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 14, 2010

Bison Natural Gas Pipeline Goes Operational Today

This 30-inch diameter, 320-mile pipeline, which includes 97 miles in Montana -- mostly in Carter County, was constructed by TransCanada, a major Canadian energy firm with significant projects in Montana.

The total cost to construct the pipeline was approximately \$600 million with about \$200 million of that investment occurring in Montana. The pipeline will carry up to 477 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to the Midwest and can be expanded in the future to accommodate 1 billion cubic feet per day.

During peak construction from August - December 2010, TransCanada had between 500 and 600 workers in Montana constructing the pipeline.

Bison should generate \$8.8 million annually in property tax revenues in Montana, to be collected in Carter, Fallon & Powder River Counties, with a share going to the state.

Pipeline Facts for Carter County, MT

- Pipeline length..... 80.47 miles (est.)
- Annual property tax revenue..... \$6.9 million (est.)

Pipeline Facts for Fallon County, MT

- Pipeline length..... 6.39 miles (est.)
- Annual property tax revenue..... \$390,000 (est.)

Pipeline Facts for Powder River County, MT

- Pipeline length..... 9.77 miles (est.)
- Annual property tax revenue..... \$1.5 million (est.)

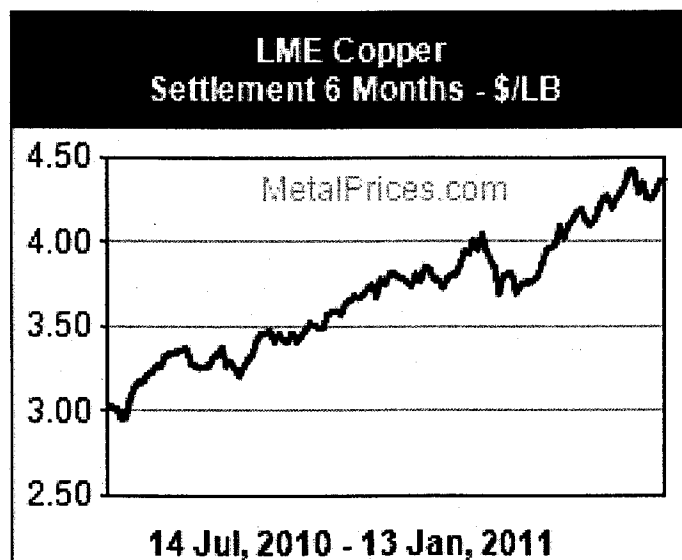
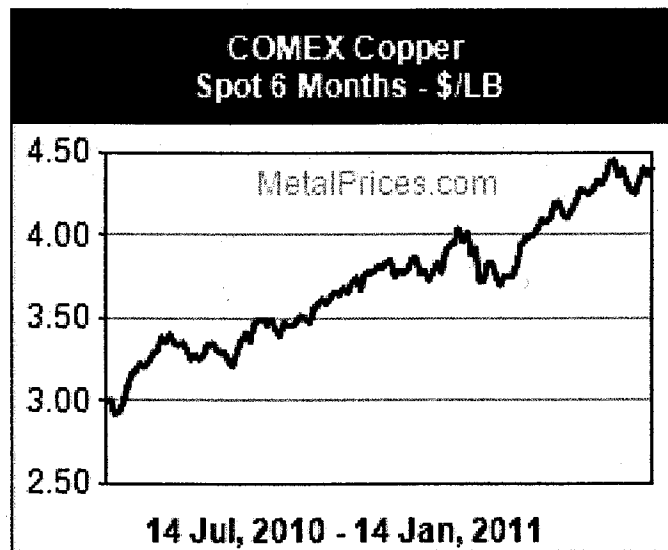
MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 15, 2010

Copper Prices Flirting With Historic Highs

Go from about \$3 to almost \$4.50 in last 6 months.



MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 17, 2010

Signal Peak Coal Mine

Roundup - Billings Area

Came on line in 2010

- Capital Investment of \$475 Million
- Created 265 Good-Paying Jobs
- 35 Mile Rail Spur from Broadview to the mine was longest new rail spur by BNSF in 30 years
- The nation's largest single longwall mine operation
- Estimated Project Taxes over life of mine:
 - Property Taxes \$198 Million
 - Gross Proceeds Taxes \$479 Million
 - Severance Taxes \$397 Million
- Additional income & property taxes to be paid by company employees

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 18, 2011

Summit Aeronautics Group Helena

- Total good-paying jobs - 135
- Started with 4 employees 14 years ago
- Recently acquired by Boeing – becoming Boeing's 11th such fabrication site in the world
- 114,000 sq ft facility in Helena
- Could be expanded to 300,000 sq ft on site
- Boeing has option on additional land for another 100,000 sq ft building for the future
- Utilizes large scale milling & manufacturing equipment
- Building parts for Boeing 747, 787, and 767 planes
- ½ machinists are UM Helena COT trained
- Major tie-ins between MSU and Boeing Summit

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 19, 2011

Stillwater Mining Columbus-Big Timber Area

- Total good-paying jobs = 1354
 - 850 at Stillwater Mine
 - 280 at East Boulder Mine
 - 224 at Columbus facility & in Billings office
 - 81 jobs recently added
- In November, announced plans to spend \$68 million on the expansion of its mines
- The former majority stockholder recently sold its stake in Stillwater for about \$900 million.
- This month began a new 3 year contract to provide palladium to General Motors after the contract was dropped during the GM financial crisis.
- Platinum & Palladium
 - 2010 Production Level:
 - 485,100 oz. – exceeded high end projections
 - Price level:
 - Palladium –
 - \$400-\$809 range in 2010
 - \$792 on 1/17/11(high value)
 - Platinum –
 - \$1,470-\$1,811 range in 2010
 - \$1,802 on 1/17/11 (high value)
- Tax Impacts
 - Property Taxes \$3.7 Million for year
 - Gross Proceeds Taxes \$4.2 Million for year
 - Additional income & property taxes to be paid by company employees

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 20, 2011

TransCanada Keystone XL Pipeline Baker On-Ramp (Bakken Marketlink)

- Announced by TransCanada today
- On Ramp to be constructed near Baker, Montana
- \$100 Million project
- \$2 million in property taxes per year
- Deliver Bakken oil to refineries in Oklahoma and the Gulf Coast
- Initially deliver 65,000 barrels per day (nearly 24 million barrels per year)
- De-bottleneck pipelines so that our oil can secure full market value rather than discounted value because it has been previously "stranded"
- Project expected to be in service in the first quarter of 2013
- Governor Schweitzer and Montana PSC were instrumental in getting project going as the on-ramp was not in the original design of the major crude oil pipeline from the oil sands area to the Gulf Coast

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 21, 2011

\$200 Million Mill Creek Generating Station Begins Operation in Anaconda

- Began operation shortly after midnight Jan 1, 2011.
- About 265 workers at the height of construction with 10 high paying permanent jobs for operations and maintenance.
- Capable of generating 150 megawatts to balance 2,000 miles of Montana transmission.
- Three generating units powered primarily by natural gas.
- Provisions allow for a fourth unit, if needed in the future.
- Will keep NorthWestern Energy's transmission system at peak performance, especially as it takes on more renewable and wind energy.
- Estimated property tax to Anaconda-Deer Lodge County \$4-6 million per year.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 24, 2011

MATL*

Brings Heavy Investment to Montana

- MATL has a total direct investment of \$209 Million
- Dedicated to moving Renewable Power
- 600 Mw capacity
- That capacity triggers \$1.2 billion in wind farm investment (about \$2 Million per Mw)
- 180 high-paying construction jobs over 2 year period
- 20 high-paying permanent jobs
- 215 miles total length (133 miles in Montana)
- As of today, 224 poles in the MATL line have been installed in the US

*Montana Alberta Tie Line

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 25, 2011

Copper Prices Flirting With Historic Highs

- Today copper prices are at \$4.31 per pound – near the record high.
- Copper has gone from about \$3 a year ago to just under \$4.50 now
- Molybdenum (MOLY) is also at \$17.33 today – a good number
- Montana Resources currently employs 348 highly-paid workers at its Butte operations
- The worker pay includes a significant profit sharing plan
- Copper production from the mine remains stable based upon good demand



Information from the Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 26, 2011

Bresnan Communications Increases Jobs in Billings

- Bresnan began operations in 2003
- Opened a 44,000 sq ft *Regional Operations Center* in Billings in 2005 with 200 employees
- Recently acquired by Cablevision
- Total good-paying jobs in Montana – 700
- 440 employees today in Billings
- New Jobs
 - Adding 20 immediately in Billings
 - Continued job expansion for several more months
- Outgrew 44,000 sq ft facility in 2009
 - Opened a second location in Billings

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 27, 2011

Growth in BNSF Job Training Efforts Marks Growth in Rail Activity in Montana

- . Pursuant to their workforce plan for this year, BNSF Railroad has 36 employees in training
- . Another 147 (for a projected total of 183) are to be in training by August
- . Approximately 20% of these employees are to fill positions because of retirements or vacant positions
- . About 80% (around 150) represent an expansion of the workforce due to increased hauling reflecting increased economic activity
- . In 2010, BNSF employed 1699 employees in Montana

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 28, 2011

Stinger Welding Plant Nearing Completion in Libby

- . New 100,000 sq. ft. plant for bridge fabricator is under construction & scheduled to be completed in March
- . \$12.8 million total investment in plant, equipment & company startup operations
- . 45 employees currently on payroll
- . 35 new employees to be added on completion of plant (total employment then should be 80-90)
- . 200 workers within 24 months is long term employment target
- . Training help from state workforce training grant & community college

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

JANUARY 31, 2011

REC Silicon Plant Increases Investment; Provides Jobs

- . REC's plant provides 291 high-quality Montana jobs in the Butte area
- . Initial plant investment (\$600 million) has been augmented by \$90 million in upgrades in 2006-2009 and \$20 million in 2010
- . 2010 production was up in all areas
- . Advancing technologies now make REC's silicon usable in control systems of electric cars, wind turbines, smart grids & high-speed rail.
- . Company anticipates all-time high in silicon production in 2011

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 1, 2011

TicketPrinting Wins “Entrepreneur of Year” Award While Providing Good Jobs in Rural Montana

- Recently designated “Entrepreneur of the Year” by Montana Ambassadors organization
- Largest commercial employer in Wheatland County, -
- 25 full-time and 20 part-time jobs in Montana
- Customer support teams in Harlowton, Lewistown, Livingston and Billings
- Provides on-line event products: tickets, flyers, posters, wristbands and event badges
- Has over 80,000 customers in North America, Australia, the United Kingdom and Europe
- TicketPrinting.com founded above a Bigfork garage in 1997 Bigfork; currently located in Harlowton
- Expanded globally to UK/Europe and Australia
- In 2010, launched TicketRiver.com, which provides online event management, marketing and online ticket sales to event organizers across North America

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 2, 2011

Montana's Exports Grow at 4th Fastest Rate in the Nation in 2010

- Reflective of increased economic activity, Montana exports went up \$357 million between November 2009 and November 2010
- 37% growth rate is 4th fastest in the nation
- How rates compare:
 - More than double growth rate of North Dakota
 - 1-½ times growth rate of South Dakota
 - 6 times the growth rate of Wyoming
- Exports exclude bulk wheat shipments, so they are more value-added and manufacturing related products
- Ratings from US Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 3, 2011

Pyramid Mountain Lumber Increases Salaries and Earns Top Honors from *Sustainable Forestry Initiative*

- Pyramid Mountain Lumber has just earned top honors & certification from the wood products industry's *Sustainable Forestry Initiative*
- **Provide 140+ jobs at their Seeley Lake mill**
- **Reflective of upturn in economy they recently increased workers' wages by 10%**
- Were sustained through downturn by State of Montana Distressed Wood Products Industry & Recovery Stabilization Program \$1 million loan
- Family owned and operated since 1949
- *Sustainable Forestry Initiative* Certification followed a review of wood source, compliance with workplace safety, threatened/endangered species protections and community involvement
- Certified companies can add the "*Sustainable Forestry Initiative*" label to their lumber wraps

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 4, 2011

Revett Minerals' Troy Mine Produces 1 Million Oz. Silver & 9 Million Lbs. Copper

- In 2010, Revett produced 1 million ounces of silver and nearly 9 million pounds of copper
- In 2011, Revett expects to produce 1.3 million ounces of silver and 11 million pounds of copper
- Over the last several years Revett has expanded their workforce from 175 good-paying jobs to 190, with an annual payroll of \$13 million
- Property and mining taxes paid are approximately \$2 million annually
- Annually overall expenditures in Montana total about \$28 million
- Revett reinvested \$4.5 million in the mine in 2010, tunneling into new areas and extending the mine life
- Since 2004 Revett's further exploration has extended the mine life by 10 years; current mine life is to the year 2017
- Revett Minerals attributes its success to:
 - A great workforce that maintains focus on safety and environmental protection;
 - An ore body with environmentally benign qualities; one of the cleanest sources of copper and silver in the world;
 - An underground mine that co-exists with sensitive species such as grizzly bears; and
 - Good commodity prices.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 7, 2011

RightNow Technologies Tops 1,000 Workers

- . About half of RightNow's 1000 jobs are in the Bozeman headquarters
- . RightNow's headcount grew by 123 employees in 2010, 58 in Bozeman
- . RightNow acquired a European company last week, adding 70 more employees
- . About 45% of RightNow's employees are from MSU or UM
- . RightNow expects to add another 240 jobs in 2011, 100 of which will be in Bozeman
- . RightNow's revenue topped \$185 million in 2010, a 22% increase over 2009 with more than \$20 million as profit
- . RightNow is a high-tech, customer-service solutions company, Bozeman's largest commercial employer, and proud to be in Bozeman

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

DEQ Approves Otter Creek Prospecting Significant Jobs & Revenue to Emerge

- State DEQ officials have just approved a coal prospecting plan from Arch Coal, Inc. for the state-owned Otter Creek reserves near Ashland
- Arch bought public leases last year on an estimated 572 million tons of coal controlled by the state for **\$86 million and future royalties**
- Arch also has also leased adjacent coal tracts owned by Great Northern Properties
- **Total coal, public & private = 1.4 billion tons**
- Arch plans to mine the reserves to serve domestic power plants and export markets in the Pacific Rim
- Construction jobs estimated to be 500 for the railroad and 200 for the mine
- Permanent jobs estimated to be 80 for the railroad and 300 for the mine
- Tax revenues/royalties to the state over the mine life estimated to be \$5-7 billion

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 9, 2011

Bioscience is High-Paying Jobs Creator

- Montana biotech industry includes 150 businesses across the state
- Biotech industry in Montana has created 1,700 direct jobs & 5,300 indirect jobs and is growing.
- Jobs are good for Montana college graduates; the average salary reported in 2010 for Montana biotech jobs is \$49,500.
- Montana BioScience Alliance, supported by the Governor's Office of Economic Development, is the lead organization for this industry sector.
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants are integral to business start up in the Bio-tech arena (federal grants with state support through the MT Dept. of Commerce).
- SBIR grants can be used only for research and development and are highly competitive (20% funded).
- Those businesses that get these federal grants use them as seed money to attract private investors.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

ACS Expands Helena Operations – Adds Jobs

- Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (AFC), yesterday announced plans to expand its Helena operation, adding 40 good-paying new jobs by the end of March and up to 200 over the next two years.
- AFC currently employs about 85 people in the Helena area.
- Majority of the good-paying new jobs will be related to information technology, including system analysts, audit reviewers and solutions engineers.
- ACS jobs that can be moved from ACS' other locations, like Atlanta, Georgia, will be transferred over to Helena.
- Expansion of jobs to rural areas of state possible
- Some economic development incentives, as well as the state's work ethic and Montana's economic successes were draws for the company to expand in Montana, according to company spokesman.

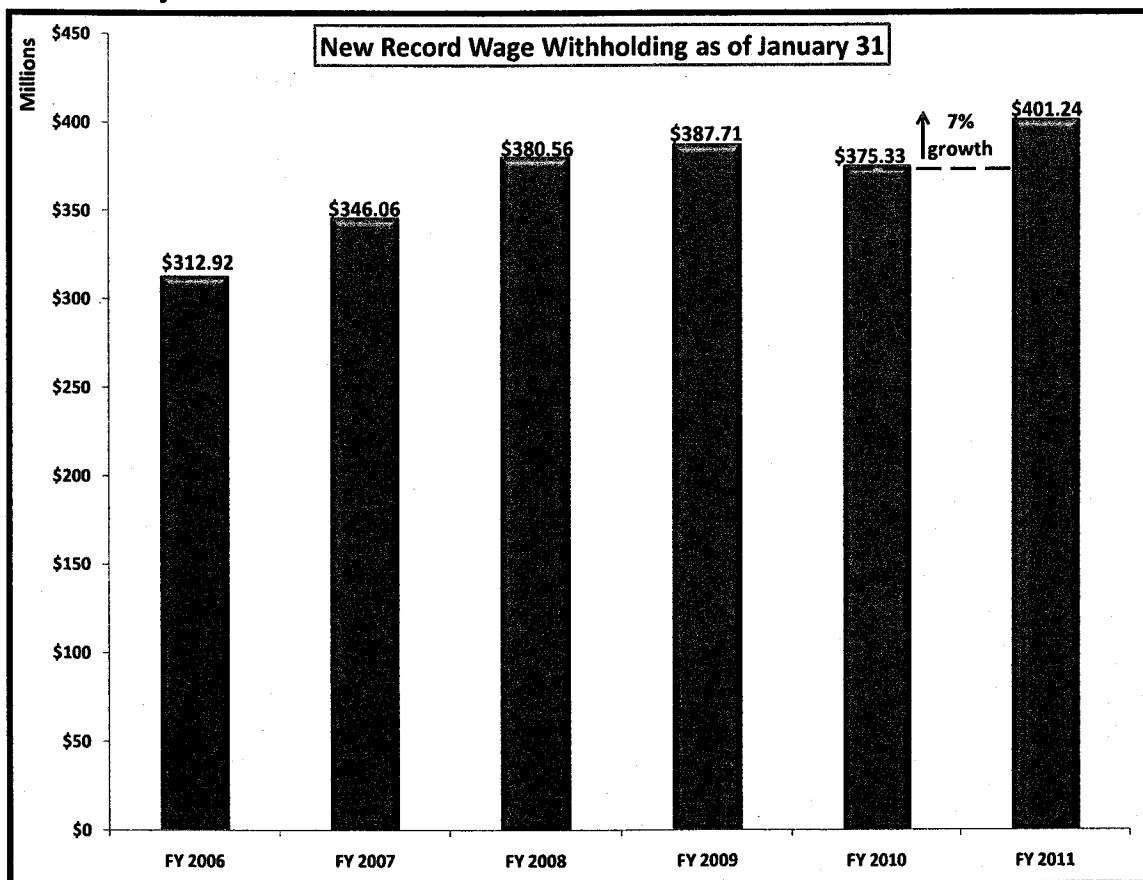
MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2011

Income Tax Wage Withholding at Record Rate Topping \$400 Million (1/31) for First Time

- Montana individual income tax withholding was over \$400 million on January 31 for the first time in Montana history (\$401,240,000).
- Indicates wage growth of 7% as compared to last fiscal year.
- Wage growth reflects increased economic activity in Montana, which has had the 8th fastest growing economy in the nation over the last 3 years.
- Actual income tax collections (as of 1/31/11) up 10.1% from previous year.
- Total General Fund Collections (as of 1/31/11) up \$95.84 million or 10.5% from last year.



MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 14, 2011

McKinstry Opens in 2009, Expands in 2010

- McKinstry began operations in Montana in 2009, designing, building and operating facility systems and buildings with an eye toward energy conservation.
- McKinstry began with 6 in-office jobs and added 8 additional in-office jobs in 2010 (for total of 14 in-office jobs). They anticipate adding at least another 8 in-office jobs in 2011, for a minimum of 22 such jobs.
- McKinstry hires MSU and UM graduates at salaries nearly double the average Montana salary.
- In 2010, McKinstry's projects created 40 direct construction jobs and 20 indirect jobs.
- For 2011, McKinstry anticipates its projects will create 100 direct construction jobs and 40 indirect jobs.
- McKinstry has offices in Bozeman, Missoula, Billings and Great Falls, but they work across the entire state.



MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Federal Report Supports 36 inch Keystone XL Pipeline; Helping \$1.1 Billion Montana Investment

- US Dept. of Energy report just released documents how Keystone XL pipeline will help reduce US imports of overseas oil, helping pave way for pipeline.
- Keystone XL will cross 280 miles of eastern Montana.
- Keystone will invest \$1.1 billion in Montana for the pipeline and on-ramp.
- Keystone will create 930-1560 direct job years of construction and a combined direct and indirect job impact of 5,531 job years.
- Property taxes anticipated from pipeline total \$55-60 million per year.
- Pipeline will carry approximately 4% of nation's crude oil needs; Montana and North Dakota can put 25 million barrels per year of crude oil on pipeline to market.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

Specified Fittings Expands from Bellingham, WA to Stevensville - doubles Existing Workforce

- Specified Fittings of Bellingham, WA has expanded its operations into Montana, opening second plant.
- Specified Fittings' Bellingham operations currently employ 110 workers.
- Specified Fittings' new operation in Stevensville now has 6 workers and will double the workforce within a week.
- Specified Fittings manufactures High-density polyethylene (HDPE) fittings and specialty pipe for all kinds of industrial, commercial and residential construction and operations.
- Long term growth anticipated as the HDPE market stayed strong throughout the recent economic downturn and its infrastructure products are part of what is driving the economic engine of the country.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

SRS Crisafulli (SRSC) Expansion Adds Jobs in Glendive

- SRS Crisafulli (SRSC) recently completed a 4000 sq. ft. bay addition to their existing 20,100 square foot manufacturing facility, complete with a 30 ton overhead crane
- SRSC has recently added 9 new good-paying jobs bringing current employee total to 34
- SRSC projects adding another 13 good-paying jobs over the next two years
- SRSC recruits from and encourages continuing education at Dawson Community College, offers training programs with the Montana Manufacturers Extension Center with funds from *Dept of Commerce State Primary Sector Worker Training Program* and promotes other off-site professional training
- SRSC has manufactured pumps, dredges and power units in Glendive since 1966

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 18, 2011

New Seacast Titanium Foundry in Butte Brings Technology and Jobs

- SeaCast, one of only a few titanium foundries in the US, produces specializes in metal products for the aerospace, oil and gas, medical and automotive industries
- Seacast's 63,000-square-foot steel and titanium foundry utilized many state and local economic development programs
- Initial 30 good-paying jobs in early 2010 have been expanded into 50 good jobs
- Developing a relationship with General Electric for investment casting that should result in more job growth

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 22, 2011

Cleanwaste Expands to 56 Employees

- Cleanwaste, a 10-year old manufacturer in Belgrade, makes products that help people cope with human waste *"when plumbing's not available®"*.
- Starting with four founders, Cleanwaste today employs 56 full-time employees, having grown from 18 in the last several months.
- Cleanwaste company founders are committed to remain and grow in Montana.
- Cleanwaste leases a 20,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art warehouse-office complex in Belgrade.
- Cleanwaste supplies US military, outdoor retail chains, emergency & disaster-relief entities, industrial, mining & utilities markets, institutional healthcare buyers & even mass market drug retail chains.
- Cleanwaste currently is the largest supplier of human waste handling products to the US military, outdoor and healthcare markets.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 23, 2011

Big Sky Trust Fund Helps Create 1477 Jobs

- The Big Sky Trust Fund has helped create **1,477** jobs since the program started in 2006.
- Average salary for jobs created by the 17 Big Sky Trust Fund recipients is **\$53,558**.
- Businesses assisted by Big Sky Trust Funds have spent over **\$424 Million** in construction.
- Big Sky Trust Fund recipient companies have invested **\$7.6 million** on employee training.
- Jobs from Big Sky Trust Fund have been created in 11 different industrial sectors from manufacturing to financial services.
- Assisted businesses include: Stinger Welding (Libby), New Century Ag (Westby), SeaCast (Butte) & General Electric (Billings).
- Big Sky Trust Fund economic development planning activities include: a preliminary engineering report for a water extension project in Miles City; an industrial park feasibility analysis in Great Falls; & energy cogeneration study for wood products (Columbia Falls area).
- Big Sky Trust Fund planning projects supported the expansion of private sector businesses.



MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 24, 2011

MT 2010 Wheat Crop to Bring in Record \$\$ Stillwater Mining Huge Revenue Jump 2010

- Analysts have pegged the value of **Montana's 2010 wheat crop at \$1.43 billion**, the result of an extremely large harvest and upward prices
- Montana's wheat value has only exceeded \$1 billion twice before.
- The state produced **215.3 million bushels** of wheat, a little lower in average quality than the 2008 crop that hit \$1 billion, but also the largest crop on record.
- The cash price for the best quality wheat in the region was **\$11.39 a bushel** Tuesday, even as prices fell sharply in response to turmoil in Libya
- **Stillwater Mining Company** says it recorded its **best year in almost a decade in 2010** thanks to strong precious metals prices and renewed auto industry demand for platinum and palladium.
- Stillwater Mining reported **net income last year of \$50.4 million** — rebounding from a 2009 loss of almost \$9 million.
- Stillwater Mining operates the only platinum and palladium mines in the U.S

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2011

Helena 6th Strongest Micropolitan Economy - Report Shows Bozeman 7th Strongest in US

- For 2010, Helena had the 6th strongest micropolitan economy out of 576 small cities studied in the country, according to an economic research firm.
- Helena has been ranked in the Top 10 three times over the last 7 years.
- Bozeman had the 7th strongest micropolitan economy according to the same study
- Bozeman has been ranked in the Top 10 every year since 2004. The city's best ranking was sixth in 2009.
- Butte's Economy was ranked 27th for 2010, its best showing ever; Kalispell's was ranked 35th
- Study done by Policom, a Florida-based independent economic research firm.
- A micropolitan area is defined as an urban area with a population of 10,000 to 50,000 residents.
- In ranking the "quality" of the economy, Policom considers factors such as jobs, per capita earnings and growth in areas including population, small businesses and the construction and retail industries.



MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FAST FACTS

MARCH 1, 2011

MCDC Gets \$56 Million for Montana Projects Will Create Hundreds of Construction Jobs

- Montana Community Development Corporation (MCDC), a statewide organization located in Missoula, just received a \$56 Million allocation for 2011 from the Treasury Dept. for New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) projects in Montana.
- MCDC's award is the largest in the country for organizations that serve a single state.
- In 2008, MCDC was awarded a \$40 Million NMTC allocation, which triggered 4 major construction-development projects:
 - Missoula (Garlington Law Firm Building)
 - Bozeman (Town & Country Foods)
 - Butte (Historic Sears Building), and
 - Helena (Peak Health & Fitness).
- Those projects created more than 500 construction jobs and leveraged over \$30 million in additional private and public funds.
- With increased Montana economic activity, enough 2011 projects are already available to take advantage of the NMTC allocation.
- Hundreds of construction jobs will be created and tens of millions of private funds will be invested as a result.



MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 2, 2011

Sun Mountain Lumber rehires 24 workers \$60,000/month boost to Deer Lodge economy

- On Monday, 24 workers were re-employed at Sun Mountain Lumber in Deer Lodge - a month earlier than anticipated
- Direct payroll boost of \$60,000 per month helps the Deer Lodge/Powell County economy
- Independent loggers also gain from this activity through harvest and hauling of logs
- Sun Mountain loggers are working near Georgetown Lake and McDonald Pass, with other sales under contract
- In 2010, Sun Mountain was aided by \$1.65 million in Wood Product Stabilization Funding from 2009 Legislature, retaining 107 jobs and creating 95 jobs
- In 2004, Sun Mountain Lumber took advantage of the block grant program to retain more than 230 jobs

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 3, 2011

Montana Refining Adds Value to Oil

- Four operating petroleum refineries in Montana provide stable, high-paying jobs to **nearly 1000 employees** with an **average wage of more than \$85,000**
- Downstream of the refinery, **over \$100 million in wages** are provided by Montana oil and gas companies to **over 6000 employees**
- Montana refineries **pay more than \$52 million annually in taxes and royalties** to the state
- Montana refineries **pay an estimated \$47 million per year on expenses** such as repair, legal services and maintenance
- Montana refineries produce nearly 30 million barrels of gasoline and 20 million barrels of diesel yearly
- Motor fuel taxes collected on the 500 million gallons of gas sold in Montana represent approximately 10% of the total taxes collected by the state **(based on 2006 numbers)**
- The Montana Refining Company in Great Falls has invested approximately **\$100 million in upgrades** since 2006 and produces 10,000 barrels per day
- The CHS Refinery in Laurel underwent a **\$400 million upgrade** in May of 2008 and completed a **\$50 million benzene process upgrade** in the fall of 2010
- ExxonMobil has **invested approximately \$90 million** in upgrades to their refinery since 2005
- The ConocoPhillips refinery in Billings has spent **\$500 million in upgrades** since November 2006 and has plans to invest an **additional \$500 million** in future improvements

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 4, 2011

American Pulses' Splitting Line Starts Up Investment Target Is Over \$23 Million

- American Pulses' first splitting line with up to 16 jobs is up and running as of February 17, 2011
- Direct project cost of \$3 million with investment target of **over \$23 million, leading to nearly 60 jobs** across six communities in rural Montana
- Based in Hingham, American Pulses is a pulse crop processor and exporter
- The company grades, splits, cleans and processes pulses including lentils, chick peas, green peas and yellow peas
- American Pulses Ltd. will export its complete range of products to markets in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Africa, the Middle East, North America, South America, Latin America, and Europe
- Agriculture value-adding investment is a win-win, producers benefit from being able to diversify their crops and have a local buyer and in return, American Pulses is able to showcase Montana grown products all over the world

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 7, 2011

Kamut International named Montana's 2010 Exporter of the Year

- Kamut International received the *Governor's Excellence in Exporting Award* for its success in exporting Montana wheat products
- In 2009, all exports contributed a total of \$1.5 billion to Montana's economy
- In 2010, Kamut, which employs 5 in Montana, exported more than 27 million pounds of wheat to U.S., Canada, the European Union, Japan, Australia
- Kamut's 2010 exports were nearly 40% over 2009
- Exports accounted for 80% of Kamut's total revenues
- Kamut anticipates strong sales growth again in 2011
- Kamut's new markets include: South America, Taiwan and South Africa
- Kamut markets and sells an organic wheat product called khorasan wheat, a descendent of ancient Egypt's durum wheat; Kamut's khorasan wheat production started in Montana and has expanded to southern Alberta, Saskatchewan and North Dakota

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 8, 2011

R&R Conner is Montana Firm Named Blue Ribbon Small Business by US Chamber

- R&R Conner has been selected by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as a "Blue Ribbon Small Business" in its *Dream Big Small Business of the Year* competition
- R&R Conner, located in Conner, MT, is our state's lone pick of the 75 business selected nationwide
- R&R, founded in 1999, is a log brokering company with 15 year-round employees and another 10 or more additional employees in the summer
- Around 30 families are affiliated with R&R through subcontracting
- Businesses selected by the National Chamber had to have fewer than 250 employees and gross income of less than \$20 million/year
- Applicants were judged on staff training and motivation, community involvement, customer service, and business strategies and goals
- In 2005, the business expanded to include R&R Conner Aviation, which conducts helicopter logging operations
- In 2010, R&R added a sawmill

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 9, 2011

Continental Resources Marks 15% Increase in Montana Bakken Oil

- Continental Resources increased their Montana Bakken oil production from a 1.7 million barrels per year rate in Q4 2009 to 1.96 million barrels per year rate in Q4 2010, a nearly 15% increase.
- Continental Resources, the largest independent oil producer in the US, announced the completion of two notable wells in Richland County in the fourth quarter of 2010.
- At the end of 2010, Continental Resources had 165,316 net undeveloped acres leased for future production opportunities in the Montana Bakken.
- Continental Resources completed or participated in 11 gross wells in the Montana Bakken during 2010.
- As of year-end 2010, Continental Resources had completed 171 gross wells in the Montana portion of the Bakken play.

- Information from the Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 10, 2011

GearPods, Polson Small Manufacturer, Profiled in International *Outside Magazine*

- *Outside Magazine* recently profiled a small, Polson-based manufacturer known for producing high quality outdoor survival kits.
- GearPods manufactures durable, pre-packaged survival kits that provide the essentials for all kinds of backcountry emergencies.
- GearPods' products have consistently received positive reviews in various nationwide "gear" blogs and web sites, such as: <http://tinyurl.com/ykowr22>
- Owner Jim Davies founded his dream business, GearPods, in 2008 after moving to Montana.
- GearPods currently employs two people full time with plans for business expansion with new hires in the future.
- GearPods shipped product last year to over 30 countries through six international distributors.
- GearPods' domestic sales are primarily internet-based.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 11, 2011

Montana Rifleman's 48 Workers Approach 100,000 Annual Gun Barrel Production – Nearly 100 More Jobs Coming

- Montana Rifleman's 48 workers manufacture around 100,000 gun barrels annually at their 10,000-square-foot Kalispell machine shop.
- A sister company, Montana Rifle Company, is about to launch a production rifle line that will be competing with Winchester and Remington.
- Between the two companies, Montana Rifleman and Montana Rifle Company, the entire rifle can be manufactured.
- Between the two companies, around 100 new jobs will be added to the Flathead valley economy, over and above the current 48 jobs.
- In 2009, Montana Rifleman was able to ship out 135,000 gun barrels.
- Owner Brian Sipe began gunsmithing "on a whim" in 1990.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 14, 2011

WhoCanHelp.com, Missoula Innovative Website Business, Goes National - Helps Consumers

- The Missoula-based *WhoCanHelp.com* recently went live helping consumers find the local business services they need.
- *WhoCanHelp.com* currently has 10 employees.
- *WhoCanHelp.com* has been financed by about \$1 million investment from 22 investors so far.
- Using *WhoCanHelp.com* consumers can actually locate a local business to provide a needed service, like plumbing, roof repair, etc.
- *WhoCanHelp.com* founder, Darrell Stone, thought up the business as he waited to have a plumber fix the pipes that had flooded his basement in July 2008.
- The Missoula Chamber of Commerce is a recent “partner” to help tie local businesses to *WhoCanHelp.com*.
- *WhoCanHelp.com* has now gone national through “channel partners”, including municipal chambers of commerce who sign up to have their city’s businesses promoted to local consumers.
- *WhoCanHelp.com* anticipates further job growth.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 15, 2011

Montana Rail Link Traffic Rebounds from Recession – 108 New Workers Hired

- Montana Rail Link traffic has rebounded from recession lows in spite of losing Smurfit Stone as a top customer in January 2010
- Montana Rail Link traffic inside Montana is up 4% to 5% and bridge traffic to out of state is up about 18%.
- Increased market demand for products being moved has led to the hiring of 108 employees, including re-hiring those who were laid off during the recession.
- The commodities being hauled by MRL are headed for the West Coast, where they will then be shipped overseas.
- The demand for commodities in the global market have increased prices for coal, wheat and copper leading to increased need for railroad transportation service.
- The increased demand for corn and wood fiber in Asia are trends that bode well for Montana and the railroads that deliver the goods.
- The continued demand for Montana wood products and other commodities, should lead to more growth and hiring in the rail industry.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 16, 2011

Cloud Computing Firm Opens Missoula Solutions Center (MSC) – Adds Jobs Triggered By Regional Workforce & Educational Resources

- Advanced Technology Group (ATG), a management and system integration company, recently announced the launch of its Missoula Solution Center (MSC).
- Currently the MSC has 7 employees and hopes to add 3 employees every quarter, with a 25 employees target in the next 2 years.
- MSC employees/consultants are all graduates of the University of Montana.
- The MSC will be providing technology leadership and deep systems architecture and product strategy expertise from Accenture, Fortune 500 organizations and several start-ups
- MSC will be a hub for the consultancy's Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) brings together best-in-class CRM, order management and billing capabilities optimized for subscription-based delivery.

MONTANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FAST FACTS

MARCH 17, 2011

Rivertop Renewables, Missoula, Uses \$200K Grant To Expand, Targets Tripling of Work Force

- ❖ Rivertop Renewables (RR) is a cutting-edge company with 13 employees leading the charge to develop more environmentally friendly chemicals.
- ❖ RR was recently awarded a \$200,000 grant from MT Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund to help grow its business in Missoula.
- ❖ RR's expansion by nearly 25 more employees in high-paying positions is expected over the next 2 years.
- ❖ Grant funds will help purchase advanced chemical and engineering equipment that will enable the company's workforce expansion.
- ❖ RR positions will include senior-level chemists and engineers earning salaries more than twice the average of the Missoula area.
- ❖ Founded in 2008, by U of M professor Don Kiely, RR is located in the Montana Technology Enterprise Center
- ❖ RR manufactures bio-based, environmentally neutral chemicals used to replace harmful chemicals such as phosphates.
- ❖ RR is currently perfecting a process that allows large-scale production of environmentally-friendly biochemicals and bio-products made from simple plant sugars.

The Economic Development staff is ready to answer all of your questions and help you with any of your business needs. Please send us an email: <mailto:business@mt.gov> or give us a call at: 406-444-5634. Please provide us with all the necessary contact information to ensure a timely response. We're looking forward to hearing from you!